Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03895 071538Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 H-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8697
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3895

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, SY, LE
SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA BLAME RIGHTISTS FOR SARKIS' RESIGNATION THREAT
AND ISSUE STERN WARNING

1. SYRIAN MEDIA CLAIM THREAT OF SARKIS TO RESIGN JULY 6 CAME
AS RESULT OF PRESSURE EXERTED BY THE RIGHTIST MILITIAS.
THAWRA HEADLINED: "DUE TO THE ACTIONS OF PHALANGIST AND
LIBERAL GANGS, PRESIDENT SARKIS DECIDES UPON RESIGNATION.
ISRAELI AIRCRAFT OVERFLY WEST BEIRUT TO RAISE THE MORALE
OF THE PROPONENTS OF PARTITION." ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE
CLAIMS THAT THE RIGHTIST ARE CONTINUING ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK
THE RESTORATION OF LEBANESE INSTITUTIONS AND PREVENT THE
RETURN OF STABILITY AND SECURITY TO THE COUNTRY. RIGHTISTS
ARE ACCUSED OF "CONTINUING THEIR PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 03895 071538Z

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES AND AGAINST LEGAL LEBANESE INSTITU-
TIONS DESPITE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE ADF NOT TO REPLY
TO THESE PROVOCATIONS..." ISRAELI AIRCRAFT ARE SAID TO
HAVE OVERFLOWN WEST BEIRUT "TO INSTIGATE THEM (THE MILITIAS)
T CONTINUE TO PLAY THEIR DESTRUCTIVE ROLE AGAINST LEBANON
AND ITS LEGAL AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO IGNITE THE SECURITY
SITUATION AND TO COVER DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE ZIONIST

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ENEMY AND THE REGIME OF SADAT-CONTACTS WHICH ARE OCCURRING
UNDER AMERICAN PATRONAGE."

2. EDITOR OF THAWRA WRITES FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ON LEBANON
IN WHICH HE JUSTIFIES CURRENT SYRIAN ACTIONS AND WARNS THE
RIGHTISTS AGAINST BELIEVING THAT FOREIGN POWERS COULD PROTECT
THEM IF THEY CONTINUE TO FIGHT. HE REITERATES ACCUSATION
THAT EVENTS IN LEBANON RESULT FROM SYRIA'S OPPOSITION TO SADAT
AND HIS PRINCIPLED ARAB STANDS. HE SEES OUTSIDE POWERS ATTEMPT-
ING TO PUT SYRIA ON THE DEFENSIVE IN LEBANON "WHENEVER SYRIA
GAINS ANY GROUND IN CONTROLLING EVENTS." HE SAYS THAT THE PLAN
IS TO HAVE LEBANON BE A CONTINUOUS THEATER OF CONFLICT AND
THAT WHENEVER THE FIGHTING APPEARS TO BE COMING TO AND
END, ISRAEL INTERFERS DIRECTLY TO REKINDLE THE FIGHTING OR
"PUSHES HIRELING ELEMENTS TO OPEN FIRE AT SYRIAN TROOPS."

3. HE LAMENTS FACT THAT HOSTILE PROPAGANDA TRIES TO DEPICT
SYRIA AS A PARTY TO THE CONFLICT RATHER THAN AS INSTRUMENT
OF LEGAL AUTHORITY SO THAT, "AS CHAMOUN HAS RECENTLY DEMANDED,
SYRIA WILL WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON AND LEAVE THE DISPUTING PARTIES
TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS..." HE ACCUSES THE PHALANGE AND LIBERALS
OF ACTING AS SURROGATES FOR ISRAEL, EGYPT, AND THE US
AND SAYS THAT ALL THESE FORCES ARE MOVING "TO SUPPORT AND
BLESS THEM FOR THEIR BRAVERY IN CONFRONTING LEBANON AND
KILLING IT FROM NORTH TO SOUTH."

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4. IN CONCLUSION, EDITOR ASSERTS THAT: "THE LANGUAGE OF
FIRE WILL BRING NOTHING BUT DEATH AND HATRED. NOW THERE IS
(STILL) A CHANCE FOR THE PHALANGISTS AND THE LIBERALS TO
RETURN TO LEBANON...SYRIA WARNS FROM A POSITION OF POWER AND
RESPONSIBILITY THAT NEITHER SADAT, NOR ISRAEL, NOR AMERICA,
ARE ABLE TO PROTECT THE CONSPIRATORS...SYRIA HAS TAKEN UPON
HERSELF THE TASK OF CONFRONTING ALL THE AGENTS AND ALL THE
KILLERS."

5. MEANWHILE, PRESS CONTAINS A NUMBER OF OTHER FEATURES
ABOUT LEBANON ALTHOUGH IT REFRAINS FROM PROSJECTING AN ATMOSPHERE
OF IMMINENT CRISIS. ONE ARTICLE REPORTS CABLE OF SUPPORT
PRESIDENT ASSAD RECEIVED FROM SENATOR ABOUREZK WITH IT DULY
NOTED THAT THE SENATOR IS, HIMSELF, OF LEBANESE ANCESTRY.
ANOTHER MENTIONS THAT FORMER PRESIDENT FRANGIEH IS CONSIDERING
ADDRESSING A MESSAGE TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN WHICH HE
WOULD ACCUSE THE PHALANGISTS OF "STRIKING AT LEGALITY IN
LEBANON IN COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE ZIONIST
ENEMY." CORRESPONDENT QUOTES HIS SOURCE AS STATING THAT
"PRESIDENT FRANGIEH FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT UNLESS THE MARONITES
CONFRONT THIS DESIGN, THEY WILL PAY A HEAVY PRICE FOR THIS
PHALANGIST PERVERSION--MORE THAN WHAT THEY HAVE PAID SO

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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FAR IN TERMS OF THEIR LIVES, PROPERTIES, AND THE RESPECT OF
THE WORLD.
PELLETREAU

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20 Mar 2014
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